

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1-12. (*Canceled*)

13. (*Previously Presented*) An operation apparatus which is used for operating a zoom lens, comprising:

a zooming switch operated to perform a zooming operation of the zoom lens;

a first function switch configured to be allocated with one of a plurality of functions selectively, the first function switch being provided on a first surface of the operation apparatus;

a second function switch configured to be allocated with another of the plurality of functions selectively, the second function switch being provided on a second surface of the operation apparatus which is a separate surface from the first surface;

an operation switch operated to respectively allocate the one and the another of the plurality of functions to the first function switch and the second function switch for enabling performance of the function allocated to each of the first and second function switches in response to an operation of each of the first and second function switches; and

a display member which is provided on the first surface and concurrently displays a name of each of the first and second function switches and the function allocated to each of the first and second function switches,

wherein the zooming switch, the first function switch, the second function switch, and the operation switch are mutually separate switches.

14-17. (*Canceled*)

18. (*Original*) An image-taking system comprising:

the operation apparatus according to claim 13; and

the zoom lens.

19-22. (*Canceled*)

23. (*Original*) A camera comprising:

- an image-pickup element;
- the operation apparatus according to claim 13; and
- the zoom lens which forms an image of an object on the image-pickup element.

24-25. (*Canceled*)

26. (*Previously Presented*) An operation apparatus which is used for operating a zoom lens, comprising:

- a zooming switch operated to perform a zooming operation of the zoom lens;
  - a first function switch configured to be allocated with one of a plurality of functions selectively and to be set so as to be allocated with no function, the first function switch being provided on a first surface of the operation apparatus;
  - a second function switch configured to be allocated with another of the plurality of functions selectively, the second function switch being provided on a second surface of the operation apparatus which is a separate surface from the first surface;
  - an operation switch operated to respectively allocate the one and the another of the plurality of functions to the first function switch and the second function switch for enabling performance of the function allocated to each of the first and second function switches in response to an operation of each of the first and second function switches, and operated to set at least one of the first and second function switches so as to be allocated with no function; and
  - a display member which is provided on the first surface and concurrently displays a name of each of the first and second function switches and the function allocated to each of the first and second function switches,
- wherein the zooming switch, the first function switch, the second function switch, and the operation switch are mutually separate switches.

27. (*Original*) A camera comprising:

- an image-pickup element;
- the operation apparatus according to claim 26; and
- the zoom lens which forms an image of an object on the image-pickup element.

28. (*Previously Presented*) The operation apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the zooming switch is provided on the second surface.

29. (*Previously Presented*) The operation apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the operation switch is provided on the second surface.

30. (*Previously Presented*) The operation apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the zooming switch is provided on the second surface.

31. (*Previously Presented*) The operation apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the operation switch is provided on the second surface.

32. (*Currently Amended*) The operation apparatus according to claim 13, wherein:  
the zoom lens is attachable to a camera,  
the first surface is disposed on a top face of the operation apparatus close to the  
camera,  
the display member is disposed on the first surface, and  
the zooming switch is disposed on the second surface.

33. (*Currently Amended*) The operation apparatus according to claim 26, wherein:  
the zoom lens is attachable to a camera,  
the first surface is disposed on a top face of the operation apparatus close to the  
camera,  
the display member is disposed on the first surface, and  
the zooming switch is disposed on the second surface.

34-35. (*Canceled*)

36. (*New*) An image-taking system comprising:  
the operation apparatus according to claim 26; and  
the zoom lens.

37. (*New*) An operation apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the zoom lens is attachable to a camera.